



## DRISCOLL ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA 2010 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Views from Driscoll Island (Photo: D. Swedberg)



### **Land Management Summary**

This is an update to the Driscoll Island Wildlife Area Management Plan (DIWA)

[http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/management\\_plans/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/)

that provides management direction for the Driscoll Island Wildlife Area, a part of the Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island and Chiliwist Wildlife Area Complex, located about a mile south of Oroville in Okanogan County. The plan identifies needs and guides activities on the area based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Mission of “*Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife*” and its underlying statewide goals and objectives as they apply to local conditions.

Plans are updated annually as habitat and species conditions change, as new regulations and scientific knowledge develop, as public issues and concerns evolve, and as administration of wildlife areas change. This management plan update also includes 2009 accomplishments, new issues, new land management strategies and performance measures for 2010.

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Forde crossing; NE Driscoll Island (Photo: D. Swedberg)

### **New Issues**

The WDFW is working with the Colville Confederated Tribes to improve fish passage, stream flow and improve the ford on Driscoll Island. Additionally WDFW is working with the Tribes to install a water level maintenance weir on the North Channel of Driscoll Island.

The present ford is in poor shape and needs renovation to allow vehicular and equipment access to Driscoll Island. This measure will lead to improved fish

passage at the site during low water conditions and improved stream flow. A vehicle bridge would not be a cost effective alternative for improved access.

The Colville Confederated Tribes approached WDFW about improving the ford and installing a water level maintenance weir on the North Channel of Driscoll Island. A grant proposal was written and presented to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The Colville Confederated Tribes will provide the match for the project.

### **Major Stewardship Accomplishments**

Weed control efforts continued with the spraying of a significant amount of Russian knapweed throughout Driscoll Island. The plumeless thistle site was checked and rosettes hand dug. In order to monitor weed control, several photo points were established.



### **Status Report of 2009 Performance Measures**

Key performance measures are identified each year to monitor progress and identify any issues that might interfere with planned priority activities. This information will be used to delete, add or alter priority strategies for 2010.

<b>2009 Performance Measure</b>	<b>Status of Performance Measure</b>	<b>Explanation of Progress/ 2010 Related Activity/ Comments</b>
Grid for weeds on 100 acres	Inadequate time to accomplish	Work will continue during field review of weeds
Map via GPS features not included in 2008 and produce comprehensive GIS map	Completed	
Assess shrub survival planted for Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program project and replace shrubs that died	Inadequate time to accomplish	Work will continue 2010
Check and maintain shrub watering system	Completed	Continue O&M of irrigation system
Continue to seek funding for bridge and trail system on Driscoll Island	Partnerships and funding sought, but nothing of substance	Work will continue 2010
Remove all old scrap iron and metal	Inadequate time to accomplish	Work will continue 2010
Spray all known Russian knapweed infestations	Majority completed	Will target outlying infestations in 2010

### **2010 Performance Measures**

Performance measures for the Driscoll Island Wildlife Area are listed below. Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes will be monitored and evaluated annually.

- 1) Grid for weeds on 100 acres
- 2) Continue weed control efforts using chemicals, hand pulling and biological control methods
- 3) Remove all old scrap iron and metal
- 4) Maintain shrub planting irrigation system
- 5) Assess survival of shrubs and replace shrubs that died
- 6) Grid for weeds on 100 acres and GPS and map all new weed infestations



- 7) Complete and/or review and update plans including WA plan, weed plan, and fire management plan.
- 8) Field review known weed locations on Driscoll-Eyhott and note status of infestations, e.g., Dalmatian toadflax, Russian knapweed, common tansy, Russian olive, Siberian elm, and treat accordingly.



A view looking west down the Similkimeen River  
(Photo: D. Swedberg)



Junco perched on Hawthorn - Driscoll Island. (Photo: Justin Haug)

### **Citizens Advisory Group**

An Eastern Okanogan County Citizens Advisory Group meeting was held on January 28, 2010 to review Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island, Chiliwist and Scotch Creek Management Plans, management progress and address any new issues or input on existing issues. There were no comments/issues received specific to the DIWA.

Those in attendance at this meeting included:

Dave Sunde	Okanogan Valley Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
Gail Sunde	Okanogan Valley Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
Geral Cox	Rancher - neighbor
Mark Williams	Forester, Bureau of Land Management
Kathleen Johnson	Instructor, Wenatchee Valley College North
Dave Swanberg	Okanogan Valley Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
Brandon Wood	Neighbor
Eric Keane	Small Landowner, Neighbor
Peggy Swanberg	Okanogan Valley Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

Anne Lyon	Okanogan County Noxious Weed Office/Board
Joe Allemandi	Rancher- Sinlahekin grazing permittee
Jon Shoemaker	Small Landowner, Neighbor
Bob Rothrock	Operations and Maintenance Whitestone Reclamation District
Hugh Jensen	Sportsman and City of Tonasket Public Works Department
John Zabreznik	Sportsman
Rick Lind	Sportsman and USFS Fire Management Officer, Tonasket & Winthrop Ranger Districts
Tim Vugteveen	Highlands District Manager/Department of Natural Resources
John Oakes	Large Landowner – part of property in negotiations for purchase of a Conservation Easement
Cari Haug	Administrative Assistant Okanogan Valley Land Council
Andre Corso	Forester, Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Project; Reforestation Forester - USFS
Tom Jones	Rancher – neighbor and sharecropper
Clare Painter	Large Landowner – neighbor

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**Want to see the full plan?**

Go to –

[http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/management\\_plans/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/)